



The Starting Place

*Washington State Law Library's
quarterly e-newsletter*

Serving the legal information needs of the citizens of Washington State

Spring 2014

It's Tax Time!



It's that time of year again when some of us find ourselves scrambling to meet the April 15th deadline to file our federal income taxes. The tax filing season was shortened this year after the 16-day federal government shutdown delayed the start of filing to January 31st. But, fear not!! There are resources out there to help.

Internal Revenue Service Resources:



[IRS Home Page](#)

[Forms & Publications](#)—includes forms, instructions and tax tables.

[Filing](#)—includes information on who needs to file and the various methods of filing.

[Free Tax Filing Preparation Programs](#)

Other Online Resources:

[Washington LawHelp Income Taxes page](#)—includes tips on filing, information on the Earned Income Credit (EIC), and lists of free tax preparation sites throughout the state.

[Federation of Tax Administrators](#)—helpful web-site for those who need to file tax returns in other states.

[AARP Tax-Aide Program](#)—for low-to-moderate income taxpayers of any age, completely free and run by certified tax preparers.

[Armed Forces Tax Council](#)—partnering with the IRS to provide free tax help to military members and their families.

In the Law Library:

BNA Tax Management Portfolios ([KF6289.A1 T35](#))—divided into three broad topic areas: [U.S. income](#); [estates, gift and trusts](#); and [foreign income](#). Click on each link for a list of portfolios.

Washington LawHelp on the Go

A mobile version of Washington LawHelp is now available. From any mobile phone, point your browser to [washingtonlawhelp.org](#) and you will automatically be connected to the mobile site. The mobile site does not contain every resource found on the full web site but it does include hundreds of legal resources in a Q&A format, videos and a legal aid directory. The mobile site also allows users to email resources to themselves or others for viewing at a later time.



Domestic Partnerships

On June 30, 2014, roughly 6,500 of the 7,330 active state-registered domestic partnerships (as of March 26, 2014) will be converted into marriage.

This only applies to state-registered domestic partnerships, not those filed in a city, county, or other state or country. Also, those partnerships with at least one partner 62 years of age or older, regardless of gender, will not be converted.

Those who do not wish to have their state-registered domestic partnership automatically converted must file a termination request through the courts.

For more information on obtaining a marriage certificate after the conversion, see the Washington State Department of Health's Same-Sex Marriage Law and Domestic Partnerships [website](#).

Other resources:

Washington Secretary of State's Domestic Partnerships [FAQ](#)

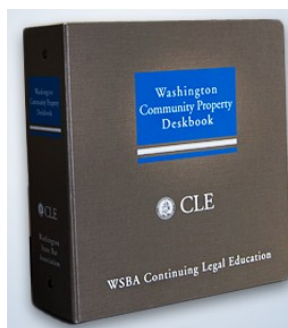
[Marriage For Same-Sex Couples in Washington State](#) by ACLU of Washington

Law Day 2014

President Dwight Eisenhower established the first Law Day in 1958 to mark the nation's commitment to the rule of law. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the [official date](#) for celebrating Law Day.

This year's theme is "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters." See the ABA Law Day 2014 [website](#) for ideas on planning Law Day events like [Gig Harbor Law Day](#) or the [Thurston County Bar Association's Law Day Speech Contest](#).

Community Property Law



The Washington State Bar Association has published a new edition of its Community Property Deskbook. The new fourth edition covers recent developments in community property law including registered domestic partnerships, same-sex marriage, and the law of committed intimate relationships.

In fact, the WSBA held off publishing this new edition until they could take into account the U.S. Supreme Court's recent [decision](#) striking down Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). There is also expanded coverage of the applicability of community property law to Native Americans. You will find this new edition in our lower level stacks at [KF526.W38 2014](#).

Judicial Vacancy

On March 17, 2014, Justice James M. Johnson [announced](#) his retirement from the Washington State Supreme Court due to health reasons, effective April 30, 2014. Interested and qualified members of the Washington State Bar Association are invited to submit applications to fill this [vacancy](#) no later than April 4, 2014. See Governor Inslee's website on [Judicial appointments](#) for more information.

Memorial Service

The Supreme Court will honor retired Justice Tom Chambers, who died in December, at a memorial service on April 30 at 9am in the Temple of Justice in Olympia. All are welcome. For more on Justice Chambers, see his [website](#).

Washington State Law Library

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Comments Welcome!